

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

MANUAL OF OPERATIVE SURGERY. By JOHN FAIRBAIRN BINNIE, A.M., C.M. (Aberdeen), Professor of Surgery, Kansas City Medical College, etc. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.

This work on operative surgery is of exceptional merit. In a preface addressed to Dr. Robert F. Weir, to whom the book is dedicated, its scope is stated. It is not intended to describe the standard and well-established operations as done on the cadaver, but is rather a manual of the more recent advances along many lines.

Certain sections are omitted, viz., operations on the arteries, on bones, on joints, on the extremities, on the female pelvic organs, etc. Yet the number of things contained in this small book, which the average busy surgeon wants to know, is simply astounding. While it is not by any means devoid of originality, it still covers most of what is best in the recent literature of surgical operations. It shows a full acquaintance with the latest work of the various surgeons who have made material advancement along the lines to which they have devoted especial attention, when such attention has been crowned by success. Thus it is more comprehensive than a "one-man book."

To enumerate the many sections that will interest the reader may be unnecessary, but special attention may be drawn to some of them.

The book begins with a description of the modern methods of opening the skull, and continues with an excellent account of the operations for infectious conditions due to middle ear disease, laying stress on the advantages of using a burr-drill.

The description of the plastic operations on the face, chin,

lip, etc., contains Brophy's methods of closing cleft palates, well illustrated, from *Dental Cosmos*.

The chapters on the removal of cervical tumors and glands encourage systematic, operative attack, and give details and reasons for the various steps which, if followed, would improve our work.

The total excision of the cervical sympathetic is described according to Jonnesco.

Kocher's plan of dealing with the thyroid gland is given and illustrated.

Ten illustrations show the various methods of closing the abdominal wall, and the author concludes his few remarks on the subject with the statement that "after completing a prolonged operation on an exhausted individual, it is better to have a post-operative hernia in a living patient than a perfectly closed wound in a corpse."

The chapter on stomach surgery is especially strong and chronicles the advanced work of many surgeons, especially Mayo Robson and the Mayos. It includes some excellent illustrations.

In the section on the intestines, he advocates suturing without mechanical devices, and recommends an enterostomy in debilitated cases of intestinal obstruction. Our knowledge of appendicitis operative methods is well classified and succinctly stated.

He warmly advocates the "Fowler position" in the after-treatment of peritonitis. His use of iodoform gauze drainage and of the Ochsner plan of treatment of cases over forty-eight hours' duration will not be universally accepted. In the abundant use of gauze packing in abscess cases and its retention for ten days, he differs from the practice of some operators.

The short but excellent chapter on the bile ducts is to be especially commended, and it has many references to Robson and Mayo.

Hernia is well treated and the improved Johns Hopkins operation for inguinal, and the Mayo operation for umbilical,

hernia are given the space they well merit and are fully illustrated.

About one-sixth of the book is devoted to genito-urinary surgery, and includes the recent advances in this department.

Six methods for nephropexy are given and some of the advantages claimed for each. The other operations on the kidney are given due attention, but he is non-committal in reference to Edebohls' decortication procedure. In the chapter on the ureter, he has made free use of Morris's work, and could have found no better authority.

The various methods of dealing with paralysis by tendon transplantation are described and credit given to Vulpius and others.

Many other chapters might be mentioned as showing the scope of the work. In the perusal of the entire book, one is impressed with the fact that, to a great extent, only the more recent authorities are quoted. The very latest surgical literature is embodied in the book. While an active surgeon, who is also a student, may be acquainted with the very article quoted, it is convenient to find it at hand on one's desk rather than in less accessible journal files. It is, however, much more than a compilation. The vigor and good judgment of the author are everywhere apparent.

WALTER C. WOOD.

THE SURGERY OF THE DISEASES OF THE APPENDIX VERMIFORMIS AND THEIR COMPLICATIONS. By WILLIAM HENRY BATTLE, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, and EDRED M. CORNER, F.R.C.S., Surgeon in Charge of Out-Patients, St. Thomas's Hospital. Chicago: W. T. Keener & Co., 1905.

A book which can be read with interest and pleasure by the surgeon, and which is certainly a most valuable source of instruction to the general practitioner, as it is he who is usually first called to see the cases described, and upon whom rests the